RESOURCE BOOK 2009

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO



WELCOME



Welcome to the 2009 edition of the San Diego Superior Court Resource Book. Our judges and court staff have compiled this information so that you may learn more about our court and better understand its processes and procedures. The goal of this publication is to inform you about the services available and to assist you in learning about the diversity of programs offered by the Superior Court.

The San Diego Superior Court is the second largest court system in the state and the third largest in the nation, with more than 150 judicial officers and 1,500 support staff members. Each year more than 600,000 cases are filed with the court and more than 200,000 San Diegans pass through the court's doors to serve as jurors.

The San Diego Superior Court is determined to continue its commitment to its number one objective: to serve the public by providing fair and efficient proceedings which foster public trust and confidence. In pursuing this objective, it is important for the court to operate in a transparent and understandable environment. From improved on-line web services to an increasing variety of self-help programs, our court is here to provide open and equal justice to all.

I encourage you to review the information provided in this Resource Book and I invite your comments and questions regarding the court and its programs. Please also visit our court website at www.sdcourt.ca.gov, where you will find a vast array of additional information and a variety of "hands-on" tools for your use.

Honorable Kenneth K. So Presiding Judge (2008-2009)

Kenneth K. So

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Mission Statement: The Superior Court of California, County of San Diego will provide for the fair and timely administration of justice in all cases before it, in a manner that is accessible and understandable to litigants and the public, and in such a manner that promotes public confidence, pursuant to applicable state and federal law.

WHO WE ARE

The Superior Court in San Diego County is part of the California trial court system, which is the largest of its kind in the world with 58 trial courts throughout the state (one in each county).



Each trial court in California is managed by a Presiding Judge. In San Diego, the Presiding Judge receives policy advice from an Executive Committee of judges. Elected by fellow judges, the Presiding Judge serves a two-year term. Day-to-day oversight and administrative management are provided by the Court Executive Officer. The State Court System is governed by a 27-member Judicial Council led by the State's Supreme Court Chief Justice. The Judicial Council is the policy-making body of the California Courts and is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) is the support staff of the Judicial Council.

WHAT WE DO

WHAT DOES THE SUPERIOR COURT DO?

All Superior Courts in California have authority over a wide variety of case types such as:

Civil Cases - Includes both limited civil cases (\$25,000 or less) and unlimited civil cases (over \$25,000). May involve cases in which a person, group of persons or other legal entity brings an action to recover money or property, to enforce a contract, or to protect someone's civil rights.

Criminal Cases - Both felony and misdemeanor crimes (including such offenses as driving under the influence). In criminal cases, if the defendant cannot afford an attorney, the court may appoint one.

Family Law Cases - Includes dissolution (also known as divorce), legal separation of spouses, marriage annulments, child custody, spousal support, and domestic violence restraining orders.

Family Support Cases - Child support and related cases in which the County Department of Child Support Services files an action.

Juvenile Court Cases - Cases involving juvenile dependency (abuse or neglect of a child), adoption or juvenile delinquency (minors accused of breaking the law).

Landlord/Tenant Dispute Cases - Civil cases in which a landlord attempts to evict a tenant (also known as unlawful detainers).

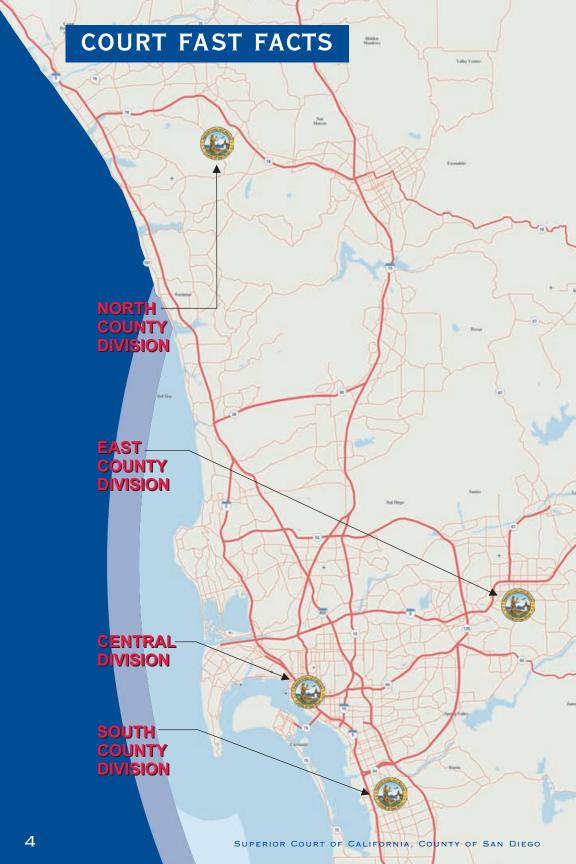
Mental Health Cases - Cases requiring psychiatric evaluations, investigations, hearings and bench trials.

Non-Traffic Infraction Cases - Cases involving violation of various city municipal codes such as pedestrian violations, smoking in a prohibited area, bicycling on the sidewalk, and sleeping on a park bench.

Probate Cases - Includes, but is not limited to, decedents' estates, trust proceedings, guardianship proceedings (appointment of someone to care for a person under the age of 18), and conservatorship proceedings (appointment of someone to care for an adult unable to care for himself or herself).

Small Claims Cases - A civil case for monetary judgment of \$7,500 or less.

Traffic Cases - All traffic infractions such as speeding tickets and red-light camera tickets.



AREA SERVED

• 4,261 square miles

POPULATION SERVED

More than 3.1 million people

COURT FACILITIES

10 court facilities

SUPPORT STAFF

• 1,506 Employees (as of 01-01-09)

Support Staff includes:

Accounting, Administrative, Budget, Business Office, Courtroom, Court Reporters, Facilities, Family Court Counselors, Family Law Facilitators and Mediators, Human Resources, Interpreters, Information Technology, Judicial Secretaries, Legal Services, Pretrial Services, Public Affairs/Community Outreach, and Substance Abuse Assessors.

JUDICIAL OFFICERS

- 130 Judges
- 24 Commissioners

JUDGE

A judge is either elected to the court or appointed by the Governor. A judge has the authority to decide cases brought before the court.

COMMISSIONER

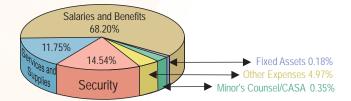
A commissioner is an attorney selected by the judges of the court and given powers to hear and make decisions concerning certain legal matters, including family and juvenile court cases, as well as criminal, traffic, small claims, and unlawful detainer cases.

PRO TEM JUDGE (also called a TEMPORARY JUDGE or JUDGE PRO TEMPORE)

A pro tem judge is an attorney volunteer who has been approved by the court to hear and make decisions in certain cases, including small claims, traffic, and certain juvenile matters. A pro tem judge may also conduct settlement conferences in family and civil cases.

COURT BUDGET

The goal of the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, is to provide the highest level of service within budgeted appropriations.



	Fiscal Year 08-09 Budget	Percentage of Total
Salaries and Benefits	\$156,964,425	68.20%
Services and Supplies	\$27,045,511	11.75%
Security	\$33,460,837	14.54%
Fixed Assets	\$ 422,262	0.18%
Minor's Counsel/CASA	\$ 812,000	0.35%
Other Expenses	\$11,438,615	4.97%
Total	\$230,143,650	100.00%

Filled Positions* 1,506

^{*} As of 01/01/09

EXPENDITURE DESCRIPTIONS

Salaries and Benefits - Salaries and benefits of all court employees except for judges, whose salaries are paid directly by the state.

Services and Supplies - Costs of office furniture, supplies, telecommunications and contractual services such as information technology and printing services.

Security - Cost for court security provided by San Diego County Sheriff's Department and private security firms.

Fixed Assets - Equipment costing more than \$5,000 (e.g., furniture, copy machines).

Minor's Counsel/CASA - The costs to appoint private counsel to represent the interests of the child in a custody or visitation proceeding and Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for child advocacy services in dependency proceedings.

Other Expenses - Includes payment of County services (e.g., custodial costs), collection costs and traffic school monitoring costs.

COURT FILINGS

Hundreds of thousands of Superior Court cases are handled each year in San Diego County. From July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008 (Fiscal Year 2007/2008) total filings for all case types were more than 673,000.

	Fiscal Year 2007/2008	
	Infractions Traffic	420,516*
	Misdemeanor Traffic	38,109
	Infractions Non-Traffic	37,8 <mark>83</mark>
	Misdemeanor Non-Traffic	33,3 <mark>98</mark>
	Small Claims	20,1 <mark>89</mark>
	Limited General Civil	31,2 <mark>22</mark>
	Felony	17,0 <mark>49</mark>
	Unlimited Civil	17,2 <mark>54</mark>
	Family Law Includes dissolutions (also known as divorces), legal separations, and marriage annulments.	14,002
	Unlawful Detainers	16, <mark>185</mark>
	DV Temporary Restraining Orders Domestic Violence Temporary Restraining Orders (TRO) filed in Family Court.	6,183
	Family Support	8,094
	Juvenile Delinquency	5,534
	Probate and Guardianship	3,583
	Other Family Includes Elder/Dependent Abuse, Paternity, Child Support Child Custody & other miscellaneous Family Court petition	2,621 ss.
	Juvenile Dependency	2,085
	TOTAL FILINGS	673,907
40,000 —		
30,000 —		
20,000 —		
10,000 —		

*This bar chart does not depict traffic infractions of 420,516.

Traffic infractions make up the highest percentage,
accounting for over 62% of all filings.

YOU AND THE COURT

Thousands of San Diegans pass through the courthouse doors every day. Some are here as jurors; others are seeking court services. The Superior Court of California, County of San Diego works hard to help everyone better understand and more effectively use our court system.



JURY DUTY

When you receive a summons to serve as a juror in the Superior Court, you are being



asked to play a crucial role in the administration of justice. The duties of a juror are as important as the duties of a judge. Jurors determine the credibility of witnesses and are the ultimate finders of the facts. The Superior Court's Jury Services Office touches the lives of more people than any other division of the court and understands the commitment jury service entails for all who serve. Sometimes the only contact citizens have with the Superior Court is through jury duty and that is why Jury Services is sometimes referred to as the "Court's Goodwill Ambassador."

DID YOU KNOW?

Some of the services provided by the court to ensure a smooth juror experience include:

7/24 Access - The Court's Jury Services office maintains a telephone line (up to 48 incoming lines) to assist jurors with questions regarding jury service. A computerized system assists jurors seven days a week, 24 hours a day. A court staff member is available from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (Monday through Friday).

Two-Week Rule - To make jury service more flexible, one can report up to two weeks (Monday through Thursday) before or up to two weeks (Monday through Thursday) after the date posted on the jury service summons. This rule does not apply to South County Division due to Group Management (see next page).

One Day/One Trial - Under California law, once a juror has appeared or has served through Group Management, the juror does not have to serve again for a period of 12 months.

Free Transportation - The Superior Court, in partnership with SANDAG, offers complimentary bus/trolley or coaster passes on the first day of jury service as a way to introduce jurors to public transit. The jury summons has a section on the form where jurors can waive their mileage and receive bus/trolley or coaster tickets for the remainder of their jury service.



Court Transfer - Prospective jurors can request transfer of jury service to a more convenient Superior Court location within the county.

GROUP MANAGEMENT

Group Management is a system where jurors call in to the court each evening for one week and only come in when the jury administrator is certain there are cases to which the jurors will be sent. The Superior Court utilizes Group Management for juries in the South County Division and on Fridays in the Central Division.

JURY FAST FACTS

NUMBER OF JURORS WHO COMPLETED JURY SERVICE IN 2008: 227,000

PERCENTAGE OF JURORS WHO COMPLETED JURY SERVICE IN ONE DAY: 80 %

WHAT A JUROR IS PAID AFTER FIRST DAY OF SERVICE:

\$15.00 a day plus \$.34 per mile one way

WHERE THE COURT GETS NAMES FOR THE JURY SUMMONS LISTS:

∠Department of Motor Vehicles records

TO QUALIFY FOR JURY DUTY A PERSON MUST:

- · Be a U.S. citizen
- Be at least 18 years of age
- Currently live in the County of San Diego
- Never have been convicted of a felony or malfeasance in office unless civil rights have been restored
- Have sufficient knowledge of the English language
- Not be serving elsewhere as a Trial Juror or Grand Juror
- Not be the subject of a conservatorship



UNDERSTANDING THE COURT SYSTEM EQUAL ACCESS AND JUSTICE FOR ALL

A cornerstone of the Superior Court's mission is to provide justice in a manner that is accessible and understandable to litigants and the public. The court has created a number of programs and tools to help you better understand how the court system works. These programs and tools are designed to enhance your working relationship with your attorney or to assist you when representing yourself in court.

SELF-HELP CLINICS

(See pages 13 to 19 for specific times and locations.)

Family Law Assistance – The Superior Court operates the Family Law Facilitator (FLF) program, staffed by court attorneys, paralegals, and clerks with experience in family law. The FLF is available to help unrepresented parents and parties who need assistance with family law issues, including divorce, legal separation, paternity, support, child custody/visitation, and domestic violence restraining orders. They also offer guardianship assistance. The FLF can help you prepare court forms and can give you general legal information. Assistance is provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Visit www.sdcourt.ca.gov for more information on this program.

Domestic Violence Restraining Order Clinics – These clinics use volunteers and community-based organizations to assist victims of domestic violence with the completion of applications for Domestic Violence Restraining Orders (DVRO).

Civil Harassment Restraining Order Clinics – These clinics assist individuals by providing general legal information, explaining court processes and helping fill out court forms.

Unlawful Detainer Clinics – These clinics assist individuals by providing general legal information about Landlord-Tenant issues, explaining court processes, and helping fill out court documents.

Conservatorship Clinic – This clinic provides assistance to individuals who need general legal information and help filling out court forms to have the court appoint someone to care for a person who cannot care for him/herself.

Guardianship Clinics – These clinics provide assistance to individuals seeking to establish guardianship of a minor child, object to a proposed guardianship, terminate a guardianship, or other related issues. Assistance includes general legal information and help filling out necessary court forms.

INFORMATION BROCHURES

The Superior Court has developed a series of brochures subtitled "Answers to Frequently Asked Questions," which are available at the appropriate court business offices. Brochure topics include:

- Civil Cases/Casos Civil
- Criminal Cases/Casos Penales
 - Family Law Cases/Casos de Derecho Familiar
 - Minor Offenses: General Information/Infracciones Información General
 - Minor Offenses: Insurance Violations/Infracciones Al Código Vehicular
 - Small Claims Court/Tribunal de Demandas Menores.
 - Unlawful Detainers/Unlawful Detainers Retención llegal



WEBSITES

There are numerous websites available to help guide people through California's trial court system. Some helpful websites include:

SAN DIEGO SUPERIOR COURT WEBSITE

www.sdcourt.ca.gov

Your time is important, and we know it! To better serve you, we have added the following online services on the San Diego Superior Court website:

- ∠ Pay your traffic ticket, sign up for traffic school, or request an extension
- ∠ Pay court-ordered fines or fees
- ∠ Look up your Jury Service information or request an extension
- Look up information on court cases using our Case Search lookup, Register of Actions, Court Calendar, Civil & Probate Law and Motion Pages, or New Case Filings
- ✓ Information to help direct you to court locations, and more

If you do not have access to a computer in your home, most public libraries and the San Diego County Public Law Library (www.sdcpll.org) provide computers with internet access for use by the public.

COURT AND JUDICIAL COUNCIL FORMS

Getting court forms is easy. Pick up forms at the nearest court location OR visit the court website at www.sdcourt.ca.gov. When visiting the website, you can either fill out and print forms directly, link to the Judicial Council website where you can browse forms from a pull-down menu, or link to the EZLegalFile interactive program where you can complete forms by responding to basic questions online. The website will automatically fill in portions of the form based upon your responses. Note: EZLegalFile is limited to the following case types: Domestic Violence, Small Claims, Unlawful Detainer (Landlord/Tenant), Family Law and Guardianship.

CALIFORNIA SELF-HELP CENTER

(Available in various languages) www.legalselfhelp.ca.gov This government website provides online assistance and information to help you work better with an attorney and/or represent yourself in some legal matters.

LAWHELPCALIFORNIA.ORG

(Available in various languages) www.lawhelpcalifornia.org LawHelpCalifornia.org provides low-income Californians with easy online access to basic legal resources and attorney information such as how to locate an attorney or advocacy group based on a specific issue of law.



CENTRAL DIVISION

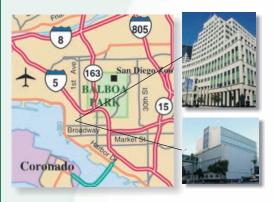
COURT SERVICES AND LOCATIONS

Where you go for court services may depend on one or more of the following considerations:

- Where you live (for example, in which court area or jurisdiction you live)
- Where the legal issue occurred (for example, in which court area or jurisdiction it happened)
- Where the court provides the services you need (for example, juvenile delinquency matters are heard only in the Central Division)

Here are the locations of court facilities and the services each location provides:

CENTRAL DIVISION GENERAL INFORMATION (619) 450-5700



HALL OF JUSTICE: 330 West Broadway. San Diego. CA 92101

Appeals - Limited Civil Civil - Limited and Unlimited (including Unlawful Detainers) Jury Services Human Resources

COUNTY COURTHOUSE:

220 West Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101Appeals - Unlimited Jurisdiction

Criminal - Felonies and Misdemeanors Family Law Facilitator Family Support Division Court Reporting Services -Transcripts Older Court Records - Records Research Pretrial Services





FAMILY COURT:

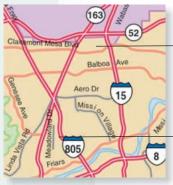
1555 Sixth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101

Family Law: Dissolution (Divorce), Domestic Violence Restraining Orders, Child Custody and Support Family Law Facilitator Family Court Services (e.g., Mediators)

MADGE BRADLEY BUILDING:

1409 Fourth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101

Domestic Violence Restraining Orders Probate, Guardianships, and Conservatorships Trusts and Delayed Registration of Birth, Death and Marriage





KEARNY MESA TRAFFIC COURT: 8950 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego, CA 92123

Small Claims Small Claims Legal Advisor Traffic and other Infractions and Juvenile Vehicle Code Infractions



JUVENILE COURT:

2851 Meadow Lark Drive, San Diego, CA 92123 Adoptions and Emancipations

Adoptions and Emancipations
Juvenile Delinquency
Juvenile Dependency

CENTRAL DIVISION SELF-HELP SERVICES FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE NUMBERS BELOW:

Control Countrol Coun

Central Courthouse, 220 West Broadway, Room 4001, San Diego, CA 92101

Operated by the San Diego Superior Court Family Law Facilitator's Office using court attorneys and paralegals, this office provides assistance to self-represented litigants who need help with governmental child support issues in cases where the Department of Child Support Services is involved. Open Monday through Friday on a first-come, first-served basis at no cost.

Hall of Justice, 330 West Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101

Operated by Legal Aid Society of San Diego, this clinic offers assistance to self-represented litigants by explaining procedures and helping them to prepare forms.

Madge Bradley Courthouse, 1409 Fourth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101

Operated by Legal Aid Society of San Diego (www.lassd.org), this clinic offers assistance to self-represented litigants by providing information and forms assistance.

Operated by San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, this clinic offers assistance to self-represented litigants to explain procedures and prepare forms.

Family Court Building, 1555 Sixth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101

Operated by the San Diego Superior Court Family Law Facilitator's Office using court attorneys and paralegals, this office provides general legal information and forms assistance to self-represented litigants in the areas of divorce, paternity, support, child custody and visitation, and domestic violence restraining orders. Open Monday through Friday on a first-come, first-served basis.

Family Court Building., 1555 Sixth Avenue, Second Floor, San Diego, CA 92101

Family Court Services (FCS) provides a Parent Orientation meeting, giving information regarding child custody and Family Court matters. This meeting is facilitated by an FCS Counselor.

Madge Bradley Courthouse, 1409 Fourth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101

The Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) is operated by the San Diego Superior Court Family Law Facilitator's Office. This office provides orientation workshops and follow up forms assistance. Orientation workshops are held at Family Court, 1555 Sixth Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101 on Tuesdays from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Follow up forms assistance available Monday through Thursday, by appointment only.

Kearny Mesa Branch, 8950 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego, CA 92123

San Diego Superior Court provides a Small Claims Legal Advisor at no cost. The advisor is an attorney, paralegal or law student and is available to assist with small claims issues and procedures from filing through enforcement. This service is available Monday through Friday. The advisor helps litigants with cases by telephone or on a walk-in basis only; no appointment is necessary.

National Conflict Resolution Center

Under contract with the County of San Diego, this program uses trained mediators to help litigants reach settlements. Program office: 625 Broadway, Suite 1221, San Diego, CA 92101.

Landlord-Tenant Disputes

Hall of Justice, 330 West Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101

Operated by Legal Aid Society of San Diego, this clinic offers assistance to self-represented litigants to explain landlord-tenant procedures and prepare forms.

^{*}These programs are not affiliated with San Diego Superior Court. The programs are independently responsible for compliance with applicable state or federal laws. The Superior Court does not endorse, evaluate, supervise, or monitor these programs.

EAST COUNTY DIVISION





EAST COUNTY DIVISION GENERAL INFORMATION (619) 456-4100

East County Regional Center: 250 East Main Street, El Cajon, CA 92020

Civil - Limited and Unlimited (including Unlawful Detainers & Civil Harassment Restraining Orders)

Criminal - Felonies, Misdemeanors and Infractions

Family Court Services (e.g., Mediators)

Family Law Dissolution (Divorce), Domestic Violence Restraining Orders

Child Custody and Support

Family Law Facilitator

Jury Services

Juvenile Dependency

Small Claims, Small Claims Legal Advisor

Traffic including Juvenile Vehicle Code Infractions

Pretrial Services

EAST COUNTY DIVISION SELF-HELP SERVICES

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE NUMBERS BELOW:

Civil Harassment Restraining Order Clinic* (877) 534-2524

East County Courthouse, 250 East Main Street, El Cajon, CA 92020

Operated by Legal Aid Society of San Diego, this clinic offers assistance to self-represented litigants to explain procedures and to help them prepare forms.

Domestic Violence Restraining Order Clinic* (619) 456-4100

East County Courthouse, 250 East Main Street, El Cajon, CA 92020

Operated by San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program and Center for Community Solutions, this clinic helps self-represented litigants by explaining procedures and preparing forms.

East County Courthouse, 250 East Main Street, El Cajon, CA 92020

Operated by the San Diego Superior Court Family Law Facilitator's Office using court attorneys and paralegals, this office provides general legal information and forms assistance to self-represented litigants in the areas of divorce, paternity, support, child custody and visitation. Open Monday through Friday on a first-come, first-served basis. See www.sdcourt.ca.gov for more information

San Diego Superior Court provides a Small Claims Legal Advisor at no cost. The advisor is an attorney, paralegal or law student and is available to assist with small claims issues and procedures from filing through enforcement. This service is available Monday through Friday. The advisor helps litigants with cases on a walk-in basis only; no appointment is necessary. A small claims telephone advisory service is also available.

National Conflict Resolution Center

Under contract with the County of San Diego, this program uses trained mediators to help litigants reach mutually agreed upon settlements. This program has an office at 181 Rea Avenue, Suite 101, El Cajon, CA 92020.

Operated by Legal Aid Society of San Diego, this clinic offers assistance to self-represented litigants to explain landlord-tenant procedures and to help them prepare forms.

ALSO IN THE EAST COUNTY DIVISION RAMONA BRANCH

1428 Montecito Road, Ramona, CA 92065 (760) 738-2400

Civil Unlawful Detainers and Small Claims Juvenile Traffic Infractions Minor Offense Infractions, including Traffic





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NORTH COUNTY DIVISION





NORTH COUNTY DIVISION GENERAL INFORMATION (760) 201-8600

Vista Regional Center: 325 South Melrose Drive, Vista, CA 92081

Civil - Limited and Unlimited (including Unlawful Detainers, Adoptions and Appeals)

Criminal - Felonies, Misdemeanors and Infractions

Family Court Services (e.g., Mediators)

Family Law Dissolution (Divorce), Domestic Violence Restraining Orders

Child Custody and Support

Family Law Facilitator

Jury Services

Juvenile Dependency

Probate, Guardianships and Conservatorships

Small Claims, Small Claims Legal Advisor

Traffic including Juvenile Vehicle Code Infractions and Minor Offenses

Pretrial Services

NORTH COUNTY SELF-HELP SERVICES

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE NUMBERS BELOW:

North County Courthouse, 325 South Melrose Drive, Vista, CA 92081

Operated by the San Diego Superior Court Family Law Facilitator's Office using court attorneys and paralegals, this office provides assistance to self-represented litigants who need help with governmental child support issues in cases where the Department of Child Support Services is involved. Open Monday through Friday on a first-come, first-served basis at no cost. See www.sdcourt.ca.gov for more information.

Civil Harassment Restraining Order Clinic* (760) 941-5685

North County Courthouse, 325 South Melrose Drive, CA 92081

Operated by San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, this clinic offers assistance to self-represented litigants to explain procedures and prepare forms.

North County Courthouse, 325 South Melrose Drive, Vista, CA 92081

Operated by San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, this clinic offers assistance to self-represented litigants to explain procedures and to help them prepare forms.

North County Courthouse, 325 South Melrose Drive, Vista, CA 92081

Operated by the San Diego Superior Court Family Law Facilitator's Office using court attorneys and paralegals, this office provides general legal information and forms assistance to self-represented litigants in the areas of divorce, paternity, support, child custody and visitation, and domestic violence restraining orders. Open Monday through Friday on a first-come, first-served basis. See www.sdcourt.ca.gov for more information.

North County Courthouse, 325 South Melrose Drive, Vista, CA 92081

The Guardianship Assistance Program (GAP) is operated by the San Diego Superior Court Family Law Facilitator's Office. This clinic provides orientation workshops and follow-up forms assistance. Orientation workshops are held Fridays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Follow-up forms assistance available Friday afternoons from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. by appointment only. See www.sdcourt.ca.gov for more information.

North County Courthouse, 325 South Melrose Drive, Vista, CA 92081

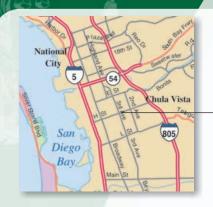
San Diego Superior Court provides a Small Claims Legal Advisor at no cost. The advisor is an attorney, paralegal or law student and is available to assist with small claims issues and procedures from filing through enforcement. This service is available Monday through Friday. The advisor helps litigants with cases on a walk-in basis only; no appointment is necessary. A small claims telephone advisory service is also available.

The San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program (www.sdvlp.org) also offers guardianship assistance on Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at the North County Courthouse*

Under contract with the County of San Diego, this program uses trained mediators to help litigants reach mutually agreed upon settlements. This program has an office at 200 Michigan Avenue, Vista, CA 92084.

^{*}These programs are not affiliated with San Diego Superior Court. The programs are independently responsible for compliance with applicable state or federal laws. The Superior Court does not endorse, evaluate, supervise, or monitor these programs.

SOUTH COUNTY DIVISION





SOUTH COUNTY DIVISION GENERAL INFORMATION (619) 746-6200

South Bay Regional Center: 500 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910

Civil - Limited and Unlimited (including Unlawful Detainers)

Criminal - Felonies, Misdemeanors and Infractions

Family Court Services (e.g., Mediators)

Family Law Dissolution (Divorce), Domestic Violence Restraining Orders,

Child Custody and Support

Family Law Facilitator

Jury Services

Juvenile Dependency

Juvenile Delinquency (truancy only)

Small Claims, Small Claims Legal Advisor

Traffic including Juvenile Vehicle Code Infractions

Pretrial Services

SOUTH COUNTY SELF-HELP

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL THE NUMBERS BELOW:

South County Courthouse, 500 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910

Operated by Legal Aid Society of San Diego, this clinic offers assistance to self-represented litigants to explain procedures and prepare forms.

South County Courthouse, 500 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910

Operated by Legal Aid Society of San Diego, this clinic offers assistance to self-represented litigants to explain procedures and prepare forms.

South County Courthouse, 500 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910

Operated by the San Diego Superior Court Family Law Facilitator's Office using court attorneys and paralegals, this office provides general legal information and forms assistance to self-represented litigants in the areas of divorce, paternity, support, child custody and visitation. Open Monday through Friday on a first-come, first-served basis. See www.sdcourt.ca.gov for more information.

offers parent education classes on a voluntary or court-ordered basis. Subjects include: communication, extended family, discipline, and grandparent/stepparent relationships. There is no cost and a certificate of participation is given upon completion. Call for class schedule and nearest location. www.sdce.edu

San Diego Superior Court provides a Small Claims Legal Advisor at no cost. The advisor is an attorney, paralegal or law student and is available to assist with small claims issues and procedures from filing through enforcement. This service is available Monday through Friday. The advisor helps litigants with cases on a walk-in basis only; no appointment is necessary. A small claims telephone advisory service is also available.

Under contract with the County of San Diego, this program uses trained mediators to help litigants reach mutually agreed upon settlements. This program has an office at 663 East San Ysidro, San Ysidro, CA 92173.

Landlord - Tenant Dispute

South County Courthouse, 500 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910

Operated by Legal Aid Society of San Diego, this clinic offers assistance to self-represented litigants to explain landlord-tenant procedures and prepare forms.

^{*}These programs are not affiliated with San Diego Superior Court. The programs are independently responsible for compliance with applicable state or federal laws. The Superior Court does not endorse, evaluate, supervise, or monitor these programs.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Superior Court of California, County of San Diego places great importance on community outreach and education. The court provides opportunities for the public to see the court in action by providing guided tours and opportunities to observe actual court hearings in progress. All judges and staff are committed to informing the public about the workings of the court and the judicial branch of government in California.

STUDENT OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

From courthouse tours to the *Justice 101* program to special events during Law Week, students in San Diego County have a unique opportunity to experience the California justice system firsthand. Court programs offer an inside look into how the court is structured, how jury trials are conducted, and how making wrong choices can impact young lives.

Students participating in Student Outreach and Education Programs (2007/2008)

7,270 Students 107 Schools



JUSTICE 101

Justice 101 is an educational program that provides high school seniors a unique look at the San Diego Superior Court system with an emphasis on the real impact of making poor choices. The program was developed to enhance American Government courses and give high school seniors the opportunity to experience the justice system firsthand. The program includes a candid and interactive presentation by a Superior Court judge, a visit to courtrooms to observe actual court

proceedings, and a question and answer session with a court official and Deputy Sheriff.

YOUTH IN COURT DAY

The nationally recognized Youth in Court Day is an outreach program held annually in the court's North County Division. The goal of the program is to expose students to various aspects of the judicial system. More than 1,000 elementary, middle, and high school students are given the opportunity to interact with judges and staff during the day-long event. Domestic violence, forensic evidence and gang violence are some of the various topics which are examined through workshops and mock trial settings. Youth in Court Day received a national American Bar Association award for community outreach.



COURTHOUSE TOURS

The Superior Court, in collaboration with the San Diego County Bar Association, offers a comprehensive Courthouse Tour Program which provides 5th through 12th grade students the opportunity to experience the California justice system firsthand. Tours consist of a visit to the felony arraignment department including a question-and-answer session with the judge, participation in a mock trial, and viewing a trial in progress. As preparation for the tour, teachers are sent a vocabulary list of terms that students may hear during their tour and the *Path to Justice* video, which is an overview of the California justice system.

ON MY HONOR

On My Honor is a complete educational experience for both elementary and middle school students. The program, which received a 2002 Ralph N. Kleps Award from the Judicial Council, includes a class curriculum, teacher's guide, lesson plans and activities. It also includes a visit to the court and participation in a mock trial. During the mock trial, which is presided over by a judge, every student joins in as counsel, jury member, court reporter, or defendant. The program has taught thousands of young people about the legal system, the courts, and the administration of justice.

LAW WEEK

In 1961, the first day of May was set aside by a joint resolution of Congress as *Law Day USA*, an occasion for Americans to celebrate their liberties and explore the ideals of equality and justice under the law. Since then, Law Day has evolved into Law Week. The Superior Court offers a variety of activities and programs in conjunction with Law Week designed to educate school-age children about the justice system.

In addition, during Law Week the San Diego Superior Court and the San Diego County Public Law Library collaborate to provide *Legal Resource Knowledge Fairs* at each court division. The Fairs feature information about various court programs, the Law Library, San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Legal Aid Society, and other non-profit legal groups that provide legal resources and services to the public.

OTHER OUTREACH PROGRAMS

The San Diego Superior Court has programs that not only open access to the court but provide opportunities for community members to participate in providing court services.

VOLUNTEERS

In 2008, more than 480 community volunteers, student interns, and temporary judges donated more than 36,800 hours of service to the Superior Court. Their dedication, time and talents helped to enhance court operations in virtually every area of the court, including:

- Caring for children in the children's waiting rooms
- Assisting the public at information desks
- **∞Conducting courthouse tours for school-age children**
- **∠Working in business offices**
- Assisting new jurors during orientation
- EHelping unrepresented litigants with family law matters
- Working on special projects
- ∠Presiding over certain types of cases such as small claims and traffic matters as temporary judges



CHILDREN'S WAITING ROOM

The Children's Waiting Rooms can be found at seven court locations in the Central, East, North and South County Division courthouses. These rooms provide a safe place for children while parents or guardians conduct court business. The waiting rooms provide children with a nurturing environment that has child-sized furniture, toys and games.

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE COURT?

Judges and court staff are available to meet with school groups and community organizations to talk about how the court works and the challenges and opportunities facing the California justice system.

Would you like more information on courthouse tours, speakers or volunteer opportunities? Call (619) 450-7176 — Student Outreach and Education Program

A DIFFERENT KIND OF COURT

COLLABORATIVE AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

When we think about the courts and justice, often what comes to mind is a jury trial and a defendant being sentenced to jail or prison. But that is not always the case. In certain situations, offenders may be eligible to participate in what are called "collaborative" or "restorative justice" courts.

Collaborative justice courts are also known as "problem-solving courts" because they promote accountability to the community by combining judicial supervision with treatment and other rehabilitation services that are rigorously monitored and focused on recovery. Restorative justice courts also promote accountability by requiring offenders to make restitution to the community through work assignments in the local area where the crime was committed. Funding for these programs comes from a variety of federal, state, and local sources.



"Collaborative justice courts, focusing on less serious drug offenses, mental health, domestic violence, and juvenile matters, have been remarkably successful at turning around lives . . . They change the offender for the better . . ."

Honorable Ronald M. George Chief Justice, California State Supreme Court

SAN DIEGO HAS NUMEROUS COLLABORATIVE AND RESTORATIVE JUSTICE COURT PROGRAMS

ADULT DRUG COURT

Adult Drug Court operates in each of the four divisions of the Superior Court in San Diego County, and is a collaboration between the court and the County's Health and Human Services Agency, District Attorney, Public Defender, law enforcement, and the treatment community. This minimum 18-month program includes intensive judicial supervision, drug treatment counseling, educational and vocational training opportunities, frequent random drug testing, and the use of court-imposed sanctions and incentives. Eligible offenders are those charged with non-violent felony cases where the underlying cause of the criminality is substance abuse.



DEPENDENCY COURT RECOVERY PROGRAM

Parents entering the dependency system (i.e., whose children have been legally removed from the home), and who require alcohol and drug treatment services, receive a timely and thorough alcohol and drug assessment, focused treatment, case management, and follow up. This program, created in the late 1990s, is a collaboration between the court and the County's Health and Human Services Agency, District Attorney, Public Defender, Alternate Public Defender, County Counsel, and the treatment community. By providing targeted and effective

alcohol and drug treatment services, the opportunity for recovery, family reunification and improved long-term outcomes is maximized.

For parents who are not able to meet court-ordered treatment goals, a specialized Dependency Drug Court provides more intensive substance abuse treatment and monitoring, random drug testing and increased judicial oversight in a therapeutic court setting. The program provides another tool for alcohol and drug-abusing parents who want to live a drug-free life to address their substance abuse problem, improve their ability to parent, and reunify with their children.

DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY COURT

The Downtown Community Court Program was developed as a collaboration between the Downtown San Diego Partnership and justice system agencies to address misdemeanor and infraction quality-of-life crimes (e.g., disturbing the peace and graffiti) occurring in the downtown San Diego area. The purpose of the program is to reduce the number of quality-of-life crimes committed in the designated area by requiring offenders to perform work service and make restitution to the downtown community, while



offering them dismissal of their cases after successful completion of probation terms.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REVIEW COURT

Misdemeanor Domestic Violence offenders are sentenced to attend a mandatory 52-week Domestic Violence Recovery Program and are scheduled for periodic progress review hearings before a judge on this dedicated calendar in each of the four court divisions.



HOMELESS COURT

Created by the Public Defender's Office in 1989 as the first Homeless Court in the nation, San Diego's program is aimed at a segment of the population that typically has no means for making reparations to the criminal justice system for misdemeanor criminal conduct. Homeless Court offers individuals an opportunity to resolve their outstanding criminal cases by participating in treatment programs rather than paying fines and/or serving time in jail. San Diego's Homeless Court program is convened once each month at either St. Vincent de Paul Village or Veterans' Village of San

Diego. Homeless Court is also provided in the North County. The program is convened once a month at either Brother Benno's Center in Oceanside or the Vietnam Veterans' facility in Escondido.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY DRUG COURT

The Juvenile Delinquency Drug Court program is designed to assist juveniles who have repeatedly been non-compliant in drug treatment, and who therefore need increased monitoring and supervision by the court. The Juvenile Drug Court is a collaborative program of the court, the County's Health and Human Services Agency, Probation, District Attorney, Public Defender, law enforcement, and the treatment community. Only non-violent juvenile offenders who are not in custody and who also have drug treatment as a condition of probation are eligible.

MID-CITY COMMUNITY COURT

Created by the San Diego City Attorney's Office in 2003, the Mid-City Community Court focuses on misdemeanor quality-of-life crimes, including prostitution, marijuana possession,

disturbing the peace, and graffiti in the Mid-City area of San Diego. Rather than having their criminal complaints filed with the court by the City Attorney, eligible offenders are sanctioned by a panel which includes community members. Offenders are ordered to perform community work service, attend rehabilitative and educational programs, and pay fines and fees.



OPERATION STAND DOWN COURT

This is an annual event sponsored by the Veterans' Village of San Diego. In addition to a resource fair

for homeless veterans, judges hold a court session at the event venue to adjudicate criminal infractions and minor misdemeanors for veterans who have outstanding cases. This event gives veterans an opportunity to dispose of minor offense citations and warrants on adjudicated cases without the fear of going to jail.

PROPOSITION 36 REVIEW COURT

Beginning in 2001 after the statewide passage of Proposition 36, eligible misdemeanor and felony offenders who are convicted of Penal Code 1210 drug offenses are placed on formal probation supervision and receive drug treatment and testing services. They are also scheduled for periodic review hearings before a judicial officer on this dedicated calendar in each of the four court divisions.



QUESTIONS ABOUT COLLABORATIVE COURTS?

If you would like more information on any of the Collaborative Courts, please call the Public Affairs Office at (619) 450-5353

2009 COURT LEADERSHIP

PRESIDING JUDGE
JUDGE KENNETH K. SO

ASSISTANT PRESIDING JUDGE
JUDGE KEVIN A. ENRIGHT



SUPERIOR COURT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

JUDGE SUSAN D. HUGUENOR

JUDGE HARRY M. ELIAS

JUDGE FREDERIC L. LINK

JUDGE LAURA W. HALGREN

JUDGE PETER C. DEDDEH

JUDGE ROBERT J. TRENTACOSTA

JUDGE LORNA A. ALKSNE

JUDGE ESTEBAN HERNÁNDEZ

JUDGE JOEL M. PRESSMAN
JUDGE JOAN M. LEWIS

JUDGE JOAN P. WEBER

NOT PICTURED

JUDGE JEFFREY B. BARTON

JUDGE CYNTHIA BASHANT

JUDGE MARGIE G. WOODS

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA County of San Diego

220 West Broadway San Diego, California 92101-3814

(619) 450-5353

website: www.sdcourt.ca.gov